

**State of Alaska**  
**Declaration of Disaster Emergency**

WHEREAS, between October 18 and 20, 2004, a severe winter storm with strong winds and extreme tidal surges occurred along the Western Alaska coastline, which resulted in severe damage and threat to life and property, specifically in the Bering Strait Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA), including Elim, Nome, Koyuk, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, and other communities; in the Northwest Arctic Borough, including Kivalina, Kotzebue, and other communities; and in the City of Mekoryuk; with potential unidentified damages in adjacent areas, and additional storm surges likely from continuing weather patterns in this area of Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, the Northwest Arctic Borough, the City of Mekoryuk and the communities within the Bering Strait REAA are political subdivisions and are within the State of Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, the following conditions exist in the coastal communities of the Northwest Arctic Borough as a result of this disaster: severe damage to roadways, power distribution systems, and drain fields; and,

WHEREAS, the following conditions exist in the coastal communities of the Bering Strait REAA as a result of this disaster: severe damage to gabions (used to protect the shoreline), major damage to coastal highways and roads, damage to water and septic systems, damage to a bridge, damage to power distribution systems, damage to fuel storage tanks, fuel spills, and property damage; and,

WHEREAS, the following conditions exist in the City of Mekoryuk as a result of this disaster: major damage to the sea wall, damage to roadways; and,

WHEREAS, the severity and magnitude of the emergency is beyond the timely and effective response and recovery capability of local resources, and further repairs are required; and,

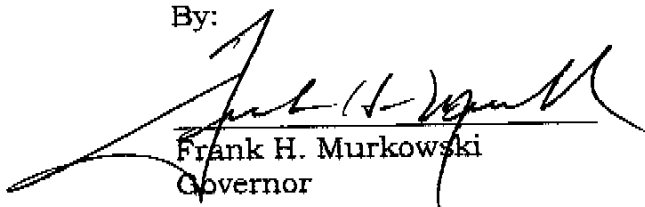
WHEREAS, there are insufficient regularly appropriated funds to cover these requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2004, under authority granted by the Alaska Statutes, Section 26.23.020 (c), I hereby declare that a condition of disaster exists in the coastal communities of the Bering Strait REAA, City of Mekoryuk, and Northwest Arctic Borough; and that this condition is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a disaster declaration in order to provide assistance.

FURTHER, the director, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM), is hereby authorized to utilize funds made available

for these purposes which are considered necessary for disaster assistance, and necessary administrative and disaster management expenses. State funds are proposed to be spent under AS 26.23.020 (i) and AS 26.23.050. The director of DHS&EM is the designated state coordinator; and is further authorized to task, as necessary, the state departments and agencies in accordance with the State Emergency Response Plan; and is further authorized to exercise, as necessary, the provisions provided under Alaska Statutes, Section 26.23.020 (g)(2), (7), (9), and (11).

By:



Frank H. Murkowski  
Governor